

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus to dispense coasters, the apparatus comprising:
5 a housing for storing a stack of coasters;
the housing having a dispensing aperture near the bottom of the housing;

the dispensing aperture being of a size large enough to allow the bottom coaster of the stack of coasters to pass from the stack of coasters in
10 the housing through the dispensing aperture of the housing to outside the housing; and

the housing having a pushing aperture near the bottom of the housing with the pushing aperture being set opposite to the dispensing aperture, and with the pushing aperture being of a size large enough to allow access to the
15 bottom coaster for pushing the bottom coaster towards the dispensing aperture of the housing,

whereby using the pushing aperture to access the bottom coaster from the stack of coasters so as to push the bottom coaster through the dispensing aperture results in dispensing of the bottom coaster from the housing.
20

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical can.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the dispensing aperture is
25 large enough to allow only the bottom coaster of the stack of coasters to pass from the stack of coasters in the housing through the dispensing aperture of the housing to the outside of the housing.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the dispensing aperture is slightly wider than a diameter of the bottom coaster of the stack of coasters.

5 5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the dispensing aperture comprises an elongated half circle having a flat side and an arc side,

wherein the flat side of the elongated half circle is perpendicular to a vertical axis of the stack of coasters in the housing, and

10 wherein the flat side of the elongated half circle is slightly longer than a diameter of the bottom coaster of the stack of coasters.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the arc side of the dispensing aperture prevents dispensing of any coaster other than the bottom coaster.

15

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stack of coasters is replenished by adding additional coasters to a top of the stack of coasters in the housing from the top of the housing.

20 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a top member removably fitted to the top of the housing,

the top member having an underside facing into the interior of the housing, and

25 the underside having a force member disposed thereon so the force member is disposed from the underside of the top member into the interior of the housing and so as to touch the stack of coasters and exert force on the stack of coasters and towards the bottom of the housing.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the top member comprises an outside facing away from the housing, and
the outside comprises a pull ring for use in removing the top member
5 from the housing.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the stack of coasters is encompassed by a sleeve with a front perforation conforming to the size of the dispensing aperture and with a rear perforation conforming to the size of
10 the pushing aperture.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein each coaster in the stack of coasters is substantially round and is substantially the same size of each other coaster in the stack of coasters.
15

12. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical can having a diameter slightly larger than a diameter of the stack of coasters.

13. A method of storing and dispensing coasters, comprising:
placing a plurality of coasters in a housing having a dispensing
aperture near the bottom of the housing, and having a pushing aperture
opposite to the dispensing aperture and near the bottom of the housing; and
5 using the pushing aperture to access a bottom coaster of the plurality
of coasters and to exert pressure on the bottom coaster to move the bottom
coaster through the dispensing aperture.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising:
10 fitting a top member onto the top of the housing with the top member
having a force member disposed on the underside of the top member and
into the interior of the housing so as to touch the stack of coasters and to
exert force on the stack of coasters with the force directed towards the
bottom of the housing.

15
15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising:
causing the top member to be removable from the housing.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the top member is removable
20 by using a pull ring disposed on the outside of the top member.

17. The method of Claim 13, further comprising:
causing the stack of coasters to be enveloped by a sleeve with a front
perforation conforming to the size of the dispensing aperture and with a rear
25 perforation conforming to the size of the pushing aperture.

18. A coaster dispenser comprising:

a cylindrical can shaped substantially like a beverage can for holding at least a coaster; and

the cylindrical can having a dispensing aperture and a pushing
5 aperture set near its bottom, and with the pushing aperture set opposite to the dispensing aperture,

whereby using the pushing aperture to access and to push the coaster towards the dispensing aperture causes the coaster to be dispensed from the cylindrical can.

10

19. The coaster dispenser of Claim 18, further comprising:

a top member removably fitted to the top of the cylindrical can for access to replenish coasters held in the cylindrical can.

15

20. The coaster dispenser of Claim 19, wherein the top member comprises an underside facing the interior of the cylindrical can, and wherein a force member is disposed on the underside of the top so as to be disposed into the interior of the cylindrical can and to exert force on coasters in the cylindrical can with the force directed towards the bottom of the
20 housing.